

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of August 22, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the Examiner's concerns.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8, 10-23 and 26-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 9 and 24-25 are canceled.

Claims 1-7 and 17-23 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 8, 10, and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Birdwell (US 5,877,876) in view of Wu (US 5,946,116).

Claims 11-12 and 26-30 are allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 were objected to for informalities and have been amended to corrected those informalities.

Claims 8, 10 and 13-16 are canceled by this amendment.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections

Claims 8, 10 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Birdwell (US 5,877,876 – the ‘876 patent) in view of Wu (US 5,946,116 – the ‘116 patent).

In view of the claim amendments, as stated herein above, the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is moot.

III. Conclusion

In conclusion, in view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner pass this case to issue.

No fees are believed necessary for the consideration of this response. However, should fees be deemed necessary, the Director of Patent and Trademarks is authorized to charge such fees, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. No. 50-3718.

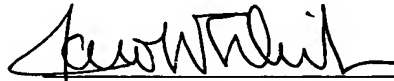
In accordance with Section 714.01 of the MPEP, the following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner:

JACOB N. ERLICH (617) 345-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Kralik et al., Applicants

Dated: October 23, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob N. Erlich", is written over a horizontal line.

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